

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 2-19, 23 and 27. Claim 1 has been canceled in favor of new claim 27, and claims 2-11, 13-19 and 23, which previously depend on claim 1, have been amended to depend on new claim 27. These claims and claim 12 have also been amended to remove reference numerals. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner pointed out that in her view, the claims were replete with indefinite and idiomatic language that almost precluded meaningful interpretation of the claims and suggested having the method claims recite the steps required to carry out the method and to correlate the steps in such a manner as to present a complete operative method. In response, Applicants have canceled claim 1 in favor of new claim 27 to recite the method steps, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's objection on the basis of these informalities.

As stated above, Applicants elect Group I, claims 27 (claim 1 having been canceled), 2-19 and 23 for further prosecution and

respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction for the following reasons.

It is believed that any search for the invention embodied in Group I would necessarily include a search for the invention embodied in Group II. Thus, a simultaneous search for both Groups is believed not to constitute an unreasonable search for the Patent Examiner.

In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search were conducted simultaneously for both Groups. Also, the necessity of filing multiple patent applications in this case does not serve to promote the public interest because of the extra expense that is involved, in filing fees and examination costs, as well as the burden upon the public due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of subject matter claimed in several different patents that could otherwise be found in one issued patent only.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application for the non-elected group.

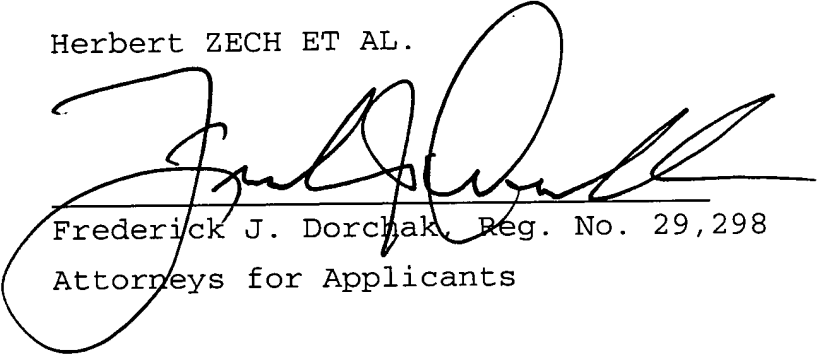
For all these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 be withdrawn, and that an action on the merits of all the claims be rendered.

Respectfully submitted,

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